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Catholic Diocese of Sale

Diocesan Administrator's Office

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Pastoral Care in the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Thursday 2nd April, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I was deeply touched watching Pope Francis' *Urbi et Orbi* blessing last Saturday morning, and being able to read a little later the text of his mediation. It is profound and I heartily recommend it for your meditation as well. One snippet might whet your appetite:

"Lord, You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others."

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/urbi-et-orbi-pope-coronavirus-prayer-blessing.html>

Holy Week

So far I am aware that the Cathedral and 3 or 4 other Parishes are live-streaming Masses, and others are doing other creative things to keep in touch and promote the payer life of our people. Thank you for those who are involved in this and the many ways you are attempting to get keep people connected.

I have received advice that in Victoria the '2 person rule' certainly applies to everything but weddings (5) and funerals (10). This became mandatory at mid-night, on Monday and now includes Holy Week ceremonies. Any live-streamed events will be public and under careful scrutiny.

Other States have been granted an extension to this rule to 5 people and in some cases, I believe 10 people. I have been assisting in the negotiations with the Victorian Government seeking to be able to extend the '2 person rule' for Easter. It is supposedly being discussed at the National Cabinet meeting tomorrow, Friday, night. I shall keep you posted.

Simplification of Holy Week services

You may have seen the Decree around from the *Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments* regarding the celebration of Holy week and the Triduum.

<http://www.cultodivino.va/content/cultodivino/it/documenti/decreti-general/decreti-general/2020/decreto-triduo-pasquale-2020.html>(page 5 for English)

<http://www.cultodivino.va/content/cultodivino/it/documenti/decreti-general/decreti-general/2020/decreto-triduo-pasquale-2020--ii-.html>(page 3 for English)

Palm Sunday of the Passion

The Cathedral will adopt the second form – The Solemn Entrance.

In Parish churches and other places of worship, the third form is used – The Simple Entrance.

1. The priest proceeds to the altar while the entrance antiphon/hymn is sung.
2. Upon arriving at the altar, the priest venerates the altar, goes to his chair and begins Mass in the usual way.
3. The blessing of palms, the gospel of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem, and any procession are OMITTED.
4. This form does include the Penitential Act before the Collect.
5. If there is no one to sing the entrance antiphon, or other suitable song, the priest reads this after the Sign of the Cross and Greeting.

Chrism Mass

A reminder that I have decided to postpone the date of the Chrism mass until later in the year. It is also my hope that I might be able to come back to celebrate it and it will provide a better chance to say thank you.

Holy Thursday

1. Note in the guidelines it says that the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper can be celebrated 'in a suitable place'.
2. The washing of feet is omitted as is the procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose.
3. The Blessed Sacrament is kept in the tabernacle instead of being placed in a Chapel of Repose.
4. Priests unable to celebrate Mass should pray Evening Prayer of the Day from the Liturgy of the Hours. (19 March 2020 Decree).
5. Priests are "exceptionally granted" the faculty to celebrate Mass in a suitable place without the presence of the people (25 March 2020 Decree)

Good Friday

1. Nothing is omitted
2. Solemn Intercessions – special mention of those who are sick, those who have died, and those who feel lost or are despairing.
3. The 25 March 2020 Decree specifically calls for a special intention to be prepared for those who find themselves in distress, sick, or for those who have died.
 1. An 11th Intercession is added to the Solemn Intercessions.
 2. Three options for this intercession is included in the following texts
4. The Adoration of the Cross by kissing it is limited solely to the celebrant.

Easter Vigil

1. Preparation of the Candle and Paschal Fire is omitted.
2. The Procession of the Candle is omitted.
3. The Paschal Candle is simply lit
4. The Exsultet follows after the lighting of the Paschal Candle.
5. Liturgy of the Word follows as usual.

6. No Baptismal Liturgy; there is simply the Renewal of Baptismal Promises alone.
7. No Blessing of the Font and No Sprinkling
8. Liturgy of the Eucharist follows as usual, omitting any references to the newly baptized.
9. Those who cannot celebrate the Vigil in the church itself should pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday from the Liturgy of the Hours.
10. It pains me to say that you may well judge that the Easter Vigil ought not be celebrated this year in your Parish. As with all these ceremonies do the best you can with what you have where you are. At this stage it is still the '2 person rule'. Again on this and any other changes, I'll keep you posted.


Sacrament of Penance

Because First Rite Confessions are by definition a meeting of two people these are unaffected. However, they cannot be conducted in churches or in a way that encourages groups of people to gather in one place. Some are trying outdoors confessions; others in the presbytery or people's homes. Current advice on distancing, hygiene etc. should be followed. But please advise your parishioners of the continued availability of Confession via appointment and of the logistics of how they can book this.

This is the Week of Weeks, and we can still hear Jesus words ringing in our ears from last Sunday's Gospel "I am the Resurrection and the Life". Let us we ambassadors of that hope.

God's peace

In Domino

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Archbishop-Elect Patrick O'Regan
Diocesan Administrator

XI. For those who suffering during this pandemic.

Deacon/minister:

Let us pray, dearly beloved,
to God the Father almighty,
that he may extend his hand in mercy
to those who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Silent Prayer.

Priest:

**Almighty ever-living God,
heal those who are ill,
comfort those who mourn,
give solace to all who are afraid and alone, protect those who are providing medical
care. Make us instruments of your peace**

**among our brothers and sisters.
In your mercy, alleviate our fears
and eliminate this scourge,
so that we may come together again
to give you praise and to build your Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Or:

Deacon/minister:

Let us pray for all who are impacted by the Coronavirus epidemic; for the sick and all who
have died;
for the safety of healthcare workers and those who care for the ailing; for the consolation of
those who cannot leave their homes;

and for the encouragement of all who feel anxiety and fear during this crisis.

Silent prayer

Priest:

**Almighty, ever-living God,
who in Christ revealed your healing power on earth,

watch over all who are suffering as a result of this global pandemic. Guide the decisions
of all government leaders
and keep safe those who care for the sick.
Grant us all the grace to persevere in hope**

**as we share in the Cross of Jesus your Son,
that we may come to know the fullness of peace
that flows from his Resurrection,
and may we all soon be joined together again around your altar to offer you worship
and praise.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Or:

Deacon/minister:

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end
to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the
sick, strengthen those who care for them,
and help us all to persevere in faith.

Silent prayer

Priest:

**Almighty and merciful God,
source of all life, health and healing,
look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease; protect us in the midst of
the grave challenges that assail us and in your fatherly providence
grant recovery to the stricken,
strength to those who care for them,
and success to those working to eradicate this scourge. Through Christ our Lord.**